

May 2019, Coconut Telegraph

Important information in this issue you won't want to miss!

****Board Representatives Needed**

****Hurricane Tips Needed from You for the LGPOA Website**

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****South End Boat Visitor Update**

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LGPOA Annual Membership Drive

From Membership Chair, Dawn Bokar:

If you haven't already renewed your membership or joined the LGPOA, now would be a great time, so you don't miss a single issue of our monthly newsletter, the Coconut Telegraph! Don't be left uninformed when it comes to island happenings! Your \$40 membership fee also gives you voting rights on important island issues. To join or renew, simply visit www.lgpoa.org/membership, complete the membership form, and pay using PayPal. Alternatively, you can mail the membership form with a check in the envelope included in the membership mailing you received last month.

****Board Representatives Needed**

From Vice President, Rhonda Olson:

Being a board member of the LGPOA is a great way to help our island. The board meets four times a year on Saturdays, and the term is two years. Attendance is not mandatory but is highly encouraged. When needed, we also have business meetings to update each other on island concerns and the progress of projects. Being a board also member doesn't require a lot of time. Typically, I spend between 10 and 20 hours a month. The first year caught me up to speed with all the hard work of past board members. There are many people that worked very hard to lay the foundation and protect our unique island way of life. Their experience is our guide for the future.

What makes a great board member?

1. Communicating with your district members and bringing their thoughts and concerns to the meetings.
2. It's helpful to live on the island full-time because it provides daily knowledge of island happenings. Even if you come regularly, that can work.
3. A can-do attitude - each board member does what they can to lessen the load for everyone.
4. Attendance at meetings and events is very important.

It's that simple! If you're interested in becoming a board member, please contact me at twrhonda@gmail.com. We have some positions that need to be filled now and others that will open up soon.

****Hurricane Tips Needed for the LGPOA Website**

From Vice President, Rhonda Olson:

We'd like to post a list of hurricane tips on the LGPOA website for members specific to our island. Do you have any tips to share?

Most of us are familiar with the links below on Hurricane Preparedness Week, which is May 5-11th this year, but these suggestions don't take into consideration that we live on a bridgeless, barrier island, which results in unique situations.

Let's help each other out! Please take a minute to submit your LGI-specific tips for islanders about before, during, and/or after a hurricane. All suggestions can be submitted to twrhonda@gmail.com. I can't wait to hear from you!

<https://www.weather.gov/wrn/hurricane-preparedness>

<https://www.ready.gov/hurricanes>

4th of July Picnic - Helpers Needed

From Vice President, Rhonda Olson:

Remember everyone I thanked earlier for making the annual meeting picnic a success? We need some helpers for the 4th of July picnic this summer. If you're going to be on the island and you can spare an hour or two, let me know. If you won't be there on the 4th but you don't mind picking up some supplies, let me

know. If you'd like to help, but you're not sure how you can, let me know! If you like to grill and you'd like to share some great cooking, let me know! The LGPOA will provide the main dish ingredients, and we're open to suggestions. Contact me at twrhonda@gmail.com or 941-999-7788.

Thank you to those of you that have already volunteered!

****South End Boat Visitor Update**

From President, Richard Leydon, Jr:

We continue to support the private property owners on their pursuit of signage to manage boat visitors on the south end of the island.

The environmental committee is working with the FWC to post bird nesting signs, along with orange tape, to mark off the shorebird nests and keep them safe.

****Environmental Update**

From Florida Wildlife Commission Permit holders for LGI; Laura, Lena and Ava Dallas:

Turtle season begins May 1st and continues until October 31st. Below are a few things islanders need to do to get ready. Property owners and rental managers please ensure all new and returning renters adhere to the following rules:

1. Remove all furniture, chairs, umbrellas, etc. from the beach. Turtles will be coming in to nest, and all of the things mentioned above may hinder nesting. Sea turtles are protected by Federal and State Laws.
2. Check your lighting on beachfront homes. Please make sure exterior lights are off or shielded and lights that are on timers are off from dusk to dawn. Close drapes and blinds on beachfront homes to prevent light from shining onto the beach at night. Lighting disturbs nesting turtles and hatchlings.
3. Avoid using flashlights, lanterns, or flash photography while on the beach at night. Use red filters for flashlights and download a red filter app for phones.
4. No fires on the beach during turtle nesting season.

5. Fill in any holes dug on the beach.

6. Dogs are not permitted on public beaches in Charlotte County. Domestic dogs are predators just as much as coyotes, armadillos, or raccoons. Dogs naturally see sea turtles and shore birds as a source of prey or something new to investigate. Dogs are not permitted on beaches in Charlotte County. There is also a leash law Charlotte County Animal Control Ord. No 98-070 and Ord no. 2000-033.

[Leash laws in Charlotte County, Florida](#)

7. Do not follow nesting sea turtles if you observe them on the beach nesting. Respect their privacy with a safe distance of at least 40 feet.

If you need information about sea turtles or shorebirds and their nesting habits and habitats for your rental property, please contact me at jddal@aol.com.

****Little Gasparilla Island Fire and Rescue (LGIFR) Update** (The LGPOA is not affiliated with the LGIFR; we just want to keep you up to date on all island activities.)
From LGIFR Fire Chief, Bill Underhill:

The water is warming up, and many people are swimming. We have been experiencing rip currents with the storms coming through. As a result, please look out for children and weak swimmers.

I can't believe this has to be said, but when danger tape has been put in place blocking people from entering a location, do not go in, under, or around. The danger tape is for your safety. Additionally, do not remove the tape. It is there to warn people of danger and should remain until we remove it.

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Please feel free to email me at twrhonda@gmail.com with any information you'd like circulated in next month's Coconut Telegraph by the 25th of each month. The content is reviewed by board members for approval.

Rhonda Olson